

FGDC Annual Report to OMB

Format for Agency Reports – FY 2003

The following outline should be used by FGDC Member Agencies (or Bureaus) for their Annual Spatial Data Reports, which will be consolidated by the FGDC and submitted to OMB. Reports **should be brief, using bullets where possible**. Please provide only the information that will be useful for OMB to assess the agencies' achievements and for establishing future direction.

Part A

GENERAL FEDERAL AGENCY RESPONSIBILITIES REPORT (All Agencies)

1. Agency or Bureau: National Park Service
2. Name of Contact for Report: Leslie Armstrong
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3. Steering Committee Member: Tom Weimer Email: Tom Weimer@ios.doi.gov Phone #: 202-208-3136
4. Coordination Group Participant(s): same as #2 Email: Phone #:
5. Subcommittee or Working Group Participation (Subcommittees or Working Groups your agency is involved with, but does not lead).

Geodetic Control, Cultural and Demographic, Clearinghouse, Geologic

6. Strategy: Has your agency prepared a detailed strategy for integrating geographic information and spatial data activities into your business process - in coordination with the FGDC strategy, pursuant to OMB Circular A-16? If yes, briefly describe.

Yes, the NPS has a draft GIS Strategic Plan that includes making spatial data and technology a foundation for NPS enterprise information systems. The NPS participates in the DOI Domain Architecture Team for GIS.

There is a new process and GIS Committee that reviews and approves all new major spatial data standards, applications, and systems and advises the CIO on spatial issues related to major system implementations.

7. Compliance: How are your spatial data holdings compliant with FGDC Standards? Also, please list the FGDC Standards you are using or plan to use in your organization.

The NPS has maintained an NSDI node since 1994 and continues to develop and post metadata that is compliant with the FGDC Metadata Content Standard. All large programmatic data acquisitions require FGDC compliant metadata to be furnished as a deliverable product. We have also developed standard FGDC compliant metadata templates for our land boundary and plat/parcel, facilities, fire, GPS and other national framework layers. The NPS has also developed an

internal system based on Z39.50 protocols, called FOCUS, to assist NPS staff in data discovery for ongoing and planning projects.

Our website: www.nps.gov/gis, lists links to FGDC, DOI and NPS standards and guidelines as well as detailed instructions/tips on metadata tools and development and participation in the Clearinghouse.

FGDC Standards in Use:

- FGDC Content Standard for Digital Geospatial Data, including the biological profile.
- Vegetation Classification Standard
- Soils Geographic Data Standard
- Proposed Geologic Data Model and Map Symbolization Standard
- Geospatial Positional Accuracy Standard
- Cadastral Content Data Standard
- Spatial Water Data Standards

FGDC Standards Planned for Use:

- All Facility Subcommittee Standards including the new Transactional Facility Management Standard
- Homeland Security and GIS standards as they are developed.

8. Redundancy: Prior to collecting data, how does your agency ensure that the data are not already available?

We check NSDI for available data and check with partners such as USGS, NASA and state organizations. We have also posted our future or on-going data acquisition plans on Geospatial One-Stop in hopes that potential partners will contact us.

9. Collection: Do your agency contracts and grants involving data collection include costs for NSDI standards?

Yes. We have written guidelines on how to write RFPs with NSDI requirements and a separate content metadata specification that can be pasted into a contract or provided as guidance to contractors and partners.

10. Clearinghouse: Is all the data and/or metadata that your agency is able to share with the public published on the NSDI Clearinghouse? If not, please cite barriers encountered.

No, metadata development requires a continuing effort over a long period of time. About half (200) of our parks' data and metadata are available via NSDI.

Barriers are budgetary, technological and cultural:

- Lack of funding and knowledgeable data management staff at the park level.
- Lack of FGDC support and grants, hands-on training classes, updated hardcopy materials and annotated examples (our parks don't always have adequate Internet access for downloading large files). NPS staff are often

overwhelmed with the thought of metadata and need in person handholding not a website reference.

- Development, quality checking, posting, serving of metadata to NSDI is a tedious, multi-level process. New automated web tools, metadata harvesting software tools, and templates need to be developed. ISITE software used on the clearinghouse servers is antiquated.
- People are sometimes resistant to changing the way the work, taking the time to understand metadata, and adding the responsibility of data stewardship to their already long list of tasks and duties.

11. E-Gov: How are you using geospatial data in your mission activities to provide better services? (Please list)

The NPS uses geospatial data:

- to enhance preservation of park resources with scientific spatial analysis and modeling
- to enhance visitor experience, enjoyment and safety with GPS use tools and tips, Interactive Map Center (on-line park atlas), search and rescue maps and planning analysis.
- to improve support and provide geodata products to our partners and local park communities for public hearings, online park development plans review, and education
- to enhance the effectiveness and efficiency of the NPS organization and park operations by integrating standard spatial data into our work and systems i.e. Facilities management, incident command and law enforcement, fire management and park planning.

12. Geospatial One-Stop: How is your agency involved in the Geospatial One-Stop?

We have registered our Clearinghouse node and posted information about our large fire and natural resource data holdings and planned acquisitions.

13. Enterprise Architecture: Is geospatial data a component of your enterprise architecture? Please provide a brief summary of how geospatial data fits into your enterprise architecture.

The NPS will be developing Enterprise Architecture once the DOI effort is complete and it will include a geospatial component.

14. Partnerships: What efforts are being taken to coordinate data and build partnerships at the field level for data collection and standards development? Identify partnerships and data sharing activities with other federal agencies, state, local, and tribal governments and other entities.

- BLM - land information standards and integration with NILS.
- National Geographic, Trail Associations, USFS, and BLM - Trail data standards and geodatabase model.
- USGS - National Map initiatives at 2 NPS locations

- USGS, EPA, NOAA, FWS - MRLC Consortium for Landsat data and Landcover/Landuse products.
- National Geographic - high resolution topographic and shaded relief products
- NASA - development of educational materials, training and remote sensing, invasive species mapping
- NGS - geodetic standards development and review
- AASG American Assoc. of State Geologists -Geologic Mapping
- AGI American Geologic Institute - Geologic Mapping
- NRCS- Soils Mapping and standards
- GSA Geological Society of America -Geologic Mapping and standards
- No.Carolina State University, U. of Rhode Island, U. of Wisconsin - GIS
- Alaska State Gov.- coordination of data acquisition and revision, mapping
- NIMA, USGS - Global Fiducials Program and mapping in Alaska and Pacific Islands
- Cape Cod Commission - coordination of data acquisition and revision, mapping
- The Nature Conservancy - data sharing and collection, mapping
- ESRI - Geography Network participant and data provider
- Southern Sierra Geographic Information Cooperative - multi-agency web mapping site for sharing data on ecosystems and fire management
- Hawaii GAP Analysis Program (HIGAP) - multi-agency, state and local data acquisition and mapping
- Hawaii IKONOS Consortium (HIC) -multi-agency, state and local data acquisition and mapping

15. Concerns or Lessons Learned: Are there areas or issues regarding spatial data that require attention or lessons learned that you would like to share with others? Please describe.

DOI funding for high priority base cartographic data production was allocated to the USGS 133 cities mapping program for Homeland Security this past year. DOI bureaus need that funding to complete mapping and revision of our DOI managed lands, which are not usually in major cities. New Homeland Security funding should be used for mapping cities, not the DOI funds.

Partnerships and consortiums for data sharing, acquisition, and production are well worth the effort in cost savings and many other benefits, but are hampered by federal contracting regulations and the difficulty in transferring funds between agencies and non-federal organizations. Due to the complicated bureaucratic process, partners may lose interest or decide to do the same on their own. A new business model for spatial data partnerships needs to be put in place.